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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,009	12/09/2003	Yoshiharu Hirano	016907-1583	2772
22428	7590	09/08/2005	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			ROYER, WILLIAM J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2852	

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/730,009

Applicant(s)

HIRANO, YOSHIHARU

Examiner

William J. Royer

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-9, 13 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6, 10-12, 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In Figure 2, reference numerals "4a" and "4b" are shown, however, neither reference numeral appears to be identified in the specification.

On page 3, line 11, change "DRAWING" TO --- DRAWINGS ---.

On page 5, lines 16 and 18, delete --- (described later) ---.

On page 5, line 21, change "etc.," to --- and the like ---.

On page 6, lines 14 and 16, change "etc.," to --- and the like ---.

On page 7, lines 17 and 25, change "barcode of" to --- barcode on ---.

On page 7, line 21, after "printer" insert --- 37 ---.

On page 7, lines 18 and 26, change "scanner function" to --- scanner 36 ---.

On page 8, line 2, change "uses" to --- user ---.

On page 8, line 14, change "e-mail" to --- e-mail ---.

On page 9, line 14, change "of the paper" to --- on the paper ---.

On page 9, line 19, after "(e.g., 20 days)" insert --- (step 114) ---.

On page 9, lines 21 and 23, after "barcode" insert --- 50 ---.

On page 11, line 3, change "invention" to --- inventive ---.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4-6, 10-12, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4, lines 4-5, "the scanner function" lacks proper antecedent basis. It is noted that the "scanner function" is first defined in Claim 2, not Claim 1.

Claim 5, line 5, "the scanner function" lacks proper antecedent basis. It is noted that the "scanner function" is first defined in Claim 2, not Claim 1.

Claim 6, lines 14-15, "the scanner function" lacks proper antecedent basis. It is noted that the "scanner function" is first defined in Claim 2, not Claim 1.

Claim 10, lines 4-5, "the scanner function" lacks proper antecedent basis. It is noted that the "scanner function" is first defined in Claim 8, not Claim 7.

Claim 11, line 5, "the scanner function" lacks proper antecedent basis. It is noted that the "scanner function" is first defined in Claim 8, not Claim 7.

Claim 12, lines 13-14, "the scanner function" lacks proper antecedent basis. It is noted that the "scanner function" is first defined in Claim 8, not Claim 7.

Claim 15, line 4, "the scanner function" lacks proper antecedent basis. It is noted that the "scanner function" is first defined in Claim 14, not Claim 13.

Claim 16, line 4, "the scanner function" lacks proper antecedent basis. It is noted that the "scanner function" is first defined in Claim 14, not Claim 13.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-6, 10-12, 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13 and 14 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a composite image forming apparatus or a method of controlling the composite image forming apparatus with the composite image forming apparatus having at least a first function, a second function and a third function, including: a first control section or means for permitting use of the first function if a code input by an operation of a user coincides with a preregistered permission code; an enable key to store a code; a setting section or means for setting the enable key; a reading section or means for reading the code stored in the enable key when the enable key is set in the setting section or means; a second control section or means for permitting use of the second function if the code read by the reading section or means coincides with a preregistered code; and a third control section or means for permitting use of the third function if use of the first function and use of the second function are both permitted.

Relevant Prior Art

The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yamada discloses an image processing apparatus, system and method having an operation mode restricting capability.

Hisatomi et al disclose an image processing apparatus with a user authorization mechanism.

Nagatani discloses an image forming apparatus provided with a registration code control device.

Maymin et al disclose an advanced administration functions for copiers and printers on a network.

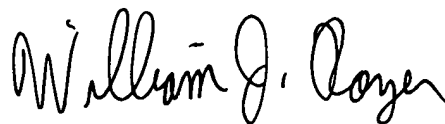
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William J. Royer whose telephone number is (571) 272-2140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur T. Grimley can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2852

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William J. Royer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Royer" clearly distinguishable.

William J. Royer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

wjr
September 2, 2005